

ment of the Northwest Territories have recently been reactivated.

There is also Blue Nose Lake in the Northwest Territories. Consultations with the community of Paulatuk, the Wildlife Management Advisory Committee and the government of the Northwest Territories began in 1989. There is also North Baffin Island in the Northwest Territories. Consultations have been under way for the past couple of years, focusing primarily on the local communities of Pond Inlet and Arctic Bay.

The Manitoba Churchill Park working group, comprised of federal and provincial officials and local people, has been set up to examine the feasibility of establishing a park in this area. This is where most of the polar bears live and breed in Canada. I have been in touch with my counterparts about this. Those are the five parks.

I do not commit myself that these will be the first five in the actual plan, but they are certainly under consideration. Those are northern parks, and we have to do a lot more in the north. The north and the Arctic are really threatened. They are very vulnerable. We must step in and create parks there as soon as we can. I would like to stress the priority of this program.

Just as a resumé, on the 12 per cent of parks, I do not want to be misunderstood. There is no precise or formal commitment by the government to the figure of 12 per cent. Of course, the current percentage of 6 per cent will be increased when we create 18 new national parks and more marine parks, but to what percentage, I do not know exactly. We will see that as the program is developed.

Mr. Caccia: Madam Speaker, I would like to offer the minister an opportunity to explain to Canadians why he can endorse and support the Brundtland report in its totality and then refrain from supporting and endorsing one of its clear recommendations which is the subject of the debate today. How can he do that?

Mr. Bouchard (Lac-Saint-Jean): The Brundtland report covers many issues and a high number of recommendations, as we all know. It has changed the environmental landscape of the world. This report is very important. I do not want to minimize or underestimate the importance of the Brundtland report.

Supply

But this debate is about the same issues, as our colleague has just mentioned, as the proposal made by the Toronto conference on climate change a few years ago when they proposed a reduction of 20 per cent in the CO₂ emissions by the year 2000. No country has, until today, made a commitment on this. I know that we will all have to make commitments when the International Climate Board files its own report later this year, probably in the fall.

It could be that some countries will make a commitment for higher reductions. Some will make a commitment for fewer reductions. For example, the French government will be in a position to make a very strong commitment for a very high reduction of CO₂ emissions. Why? Because in France there is a specific situation. They rely heavily on nuclear energy and nuclear energy does not issue CO₂ gas. In Canada, the United States, China and many other countries, it will be difficult to make a reduction of more than 20 per cent. So there are distinct and specific situations prevailing in different countries.

The Brundtland Commission was an international commission and they proposed and set a target for the whole world. We will try to do our best. In Canada in terms of absolute figures and absolute dimensions of land devoted to parks we stand as one of the best in the world, because 6 per cent of Canada is a lot more than 50 per cent of Switzerland. There is quite a difference. These things must be approached with flexibility and without losing contact with reality.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The period for question and comment has now expired.

Before we proceed on debate with the hon. member for Davenport, I think we should revert to the question and comment period which was to follow the speech of the hon. member for Skeena.

Mr. Heap: Madam Speaker, the hon. member for Skeena in a very good presentation made a reference to the 39 bioregions in Canada which have been identified as needing to be protected. I am wondering whether he can relate that to the decision two days ago by Toronto City Council to adopt the year 2000 as the target year for reducing emissions of carbon by 20 per cent. The Toronto City Council committed itself, according to the report, to achieving a 20 per cent reduction of the 1990 levels of carbon gas emissions into the city's atmosphere by the year 2000.